UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

UTNMF:
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

Student nats

UTNMF and UofT SNATS* Presents:

Canadian Art Song Showcase

This concert features UofT student composers and performers, and works by Marjan Mozetich, SNATS resident composer 2024.

28 January 2024, at 2:30pm | Walter Hall

PROGRAM

Listen, Anthony Gunadi (b.2004)

Arushi Das, soprano; Angela Ng, piano

Afternoon on a Hill, David Archibald(b. 2001)

Jereney Shen, soprano; Jingren Sun, piano

Promise me a Moment, Elienna Wang (b.2004)

Alannah Beauparlant, soprano; Phoebe Chen, piano

Enchantments of Gwendolyn (selections), Marjan Mozetich (b.1948)

Ellita Gagner, mezzo-soprano; Elienna Wang, piano

To a Stranger, David Archibald (b.2001)

May Sadan and Victoria Chan; voice; Bryn Blackwood, piano

We Both Will Die Then Beast, Bennett Luo (b.2003)

Josh Gibson, baritone; Bennett Luo, piano

Have you ever Felt? Lifia Teguh (b.1995)

Ainsley de Boer, soprano; Lifia Teguh, piano; Hayley Chan, cellist

Rose Amongst the Thorns, Aislinn Brown (b.2000)

Maren Richardson, soprano; Elienna Wang piano

Acquainted with the Night, Anthony Gunadi (b. 2004)
Monica Lindsay, soprano; Jingren Sun, piano

Veiled in Sadness, Danial Sheibani (b.2003)
Josh Gibson, baritone; Danial Sheibani, piano

The Raven, Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu (b.1996)

Victoria Chan, soprano; Claudia Wong, piano

Letter of Farewell, Jingren Sun (b.2004)
Jereney Shen, soprano; Jingren Sun, piano

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

**Student Chapter of the National Associations of Teachers of Singing.*

**This event is partially funded by a NATS Discretionary Fund Grant.*

ABOUT MARJAN MOZETICH:

The Canadian composer, Marjan Mozetich, was born of Slovenian parentage in Gorizia, Italy in 1948 and emigrated to Canada in 1952. He began his musical training in piano and theory at the age of 9 in Hamilton, ON. Later he pursued studies in composition with John Weinzweig and Lothar Klein at the University of Toronto. In 1972 he received a Bachelor of Music Degree and an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto Diploma in piano performance. From 1973-74, with the assistance of the Canada Council of the Arts, Mr. Mozetich continued his studies privately under the successive supervision of Luciano Berio in Rome, Franco Donatoni at the Academia Chigiana, Siena, Italy and David Bedford in London, UK. In 2013 he received an honorary doctorate from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Early in his career he was active in the avant-garde music circles. He co-founded and was artistic director (1977-79) of the contemporary ensemble, ARRAYMUSIC. His works were performed by prominent new music ensembles across Canada and abroad, and have received several awards: second prize in the prestigious International Gaudeamus Composers' Competition in Holland, first prize in the CAPAC (SOCAN)-Sir Ernest MacMillan Award, fellowship to the Instituto Musicale F. Canetti (Vicenza) and scholarship to the Academia Musicale Chigiana (Siena).

Stylistically he has evolved over the years from avant-garde expressionism, to minimalism, to a post-modern romanticism. Throughout, his music has remained accessible while still retaining an artistic individuality and integrity. Paradoxically, since the late 80's he has achieved an overtly 'traditional' and yet distinctively modern voice: a blend of the traditional, popular and the modern which has been enthusiastically received by the musical public. His works have been performed and broadcast throughout Canada and abroad, even on Canadian Airline's 'in flight' music programs.

(https://www.mozetich.com/)

PROGRAM NOTES

1. Listen, Anthony Gunadi

I wanted to write a song for Arushi Das' captivating voice which has a dark and powerful sound. My collaboration with Arushi Das did not only involve getting to know her voice, but she also chose the text, helped with the text interpretation, and suggested the singing into the piano technique. The piano part has a more orchestral sound in mind because it was written with the pianist Angela Ng in mind, who is very agile in her playing and can deploy a thunderous sound when the music calls for it.

The text that this song is set to is "*As One Listens to the Rain"* by Octavio Paz, which is one of the most emotionally moving poems I have ever read. It is serene and gives me a sense of timelessness and weightlessness, a comforting dream-like state. Sections of the song are separated by the repetition of the words 'listen to me'. For me this poem is about being asleep yet awake, not concerned about the trivial worries of the world and just being at peace in the present moment. The climax depicts a beautiful rebirth using imagery of nature.

2. Afternoon on a Hill, David Archibald

Playful and uplifting, this piece sets Edna St. Vincent Millay's poetry that joyfully celebrates nature and its preservation through a short first-person narrative. In the space of the poem's quatrain form, this piece unfolds over a soaring melody with harmony and jaunty accompaniment from the piano that interacts with and echoes motifs in the soprano to emphasize the relationship between the individual and nature, subverting their alienation.

3.Promise me a Moment, Elienna Wang

Promise Me a Moment is a song about moments of great significance with positive impacts that last a lifetime and beyond. Inspired by the times I spent with my loved ones, it represents a major reason why I chose to be a musician - the hope that my music creates shared moments that contribute to lasting relationships and accompany the listener as a beacon of hope throughout their lifetime.

4.Enchantments of Gwendolyn (selections), Marjan Mozetich

5.To a Stranger, David Archibald

Walt Whitman's poem represents a celebration of human connection in his study of an everyday experience. Composed to piano and two sopranos (as the passing strangers of Whitman's text), this setting explores connection in disconnection to paint a powerful image of human compassion

6.We Both Will Die Then Beast, Bennett Luo

This piece is about the struggle between a person and their inner conflict, the "beast". They realize that this beast is not easy to overcome. As the conflict intensifies, their desire for liberation from the beast becomes more and more desperate.

7. Have you ever Felt? Lifia Teguh

"Have You Ever Felt?" is a heartfelt original composition that seamlessly weaves elements of pop and art song. This song is an emotive blend of piano, cello, and soulful vocal. In the heartfelt key of D flat major, this composition evokes a compelling blend of pain, melancholy, yet unwavering hope and faith.
The piano, serving as the primary accompaniment, begins with haunting dissonant chords in the high register played in a free-time style, setting the stage for a profound inner journey filled with conflict and contemplation. The vocal then enters, engaging the listener in a heartfelt conversation.

8.Rose Amongst the Thorns, Aislinn Brown

Rose Amongst the Thorns tells the story of beauty, love, and purity, blooming amongst the thorns of life. The piece shares the effects of the thorns on the rose- being pierced, bruised, mocked, and scorned by its purity. The Rose turns from white to crimson, being trampled in the dust. Yet, morning comes. The dew of dawn brings reviving power to the flower- blooming stronger, smelling sweeter, and flourishing in the garden. The Rose paid a sacrifice, losing its beauty, to remain in the place where it loved to be planted. The Rose is a symbol of Christ, to me, as a Christian composer, and to Maren, as the vocalist. The piece concludes by telling how the love was reborn, stronger and more beautiful, through an act of sacrifice.

9. Acquainted with the Night, Anthony Gunadi

This song is set to the text of Robert Frost's poem "Acquainted with the Night", a sorrowful and eerie poem about isolation. The intensity of the character's emotions stifles any desire to seek out a connection with another person; the character chooses to dwell alone in darkness instead. There is a sense of helplessness (lines in quasi third person; "one acquainted with the night", "stopped the sound of feet") and timelessness ("time was neither wrong nor right") on this rainy night, lit by nothing but the moon.
Before writing this song, I spoke with Monica Lindsay to discuss her voice and what she would like to sing. This song was written with her voice and tastes in mind.

10.Veiled in Sadness, Danial Sheibani

Veiled in Sadness embarks on the retelling of a man desperate to confess his love to a woman he has admired from a distance. Sadly, when she finally appears she is draped in a beautiful wedding gown of white and surrounded by the ringing call of a nightingale. The pain of this unrequited love, a love that was never given the possibility of blooming, is a very common hurt that many feel today. The world now is so instant and difficult to navigate without feeling that a wrong turn has been taken or an interaction has *failed* because you somehow weren't prepared for even a simple situation. This piece is about the consequences of succumbing to those fears. Do not hide in those shadows. Do not let your dreams be married off before you even let yourself chase them.

11.The Raven, Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu

"The Raven" is part of a song cycle based on William Shakespeare's Macbeth. In Lady Macbeth's soliloquy, we see a powerful figure plotting her plan as she drives herself into insanity. This song uses the textures of the voice to reflect on the polarity of Lady Macbeth, in one of the most powerful soliloquies of the Shakespearan repertoire.

The Raven, Croaks! / The fatal entrance of Duncan.
Come, ye spirits, Tend on mortal thoughts.
Unsex Me Here! / Fill me from the crown to the toe top full.
Direst cruelty! Make thick my blood.

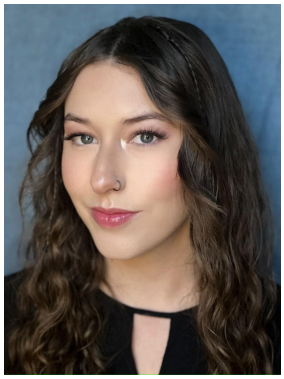
Stop! The passage to remorse.
Come to my woman's breasts, And take my milk for gall.
You murdering ministers.
You wait on Nature's mischief!
Come, thick night. And pall thee in the smoke of hell!
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes.
Nor heaven through the blanket of the dark.
To cry.
Hold! Hold!

12. Letter of Farewell, Jingren Sun

Letter of Farewell is an art song composed for Soprano with piano accompaniment. The text comes from a poem by Zhuo Wenjun (卓文君, 175BC-121BC), who was a female poet from the Han Dynasty, wrote to her husband, Sima Xiangru (司马相如, 179BC-117BC).

BIOS

Alannah Beauparlant is a Toronto-based soprano studying under the guidance of Jean MacPhail. She graduated from The Royal Conservatory of Music's Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy (2020). She appeared at Carnegie Hall as part of the DCINY (2019), with repertoire composed and conducted by Eric Whitacre. Alannah was a finalist in the Oakville Chamber Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition (2023) and was recently recognized in the Contemporary Showcase Toronto Festival (2023). Alannah sang the role of the "Second Woman" in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with the Theatre of Early Music in collaboration with Schola Cantorum and she was "Ivan" in Toronto City Operas Die Fledermaus, and in February, "Mrs. Hayes" in Susannah as well as being part of U of T' Opera Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze by Rota and Massenet's Cendrillion.



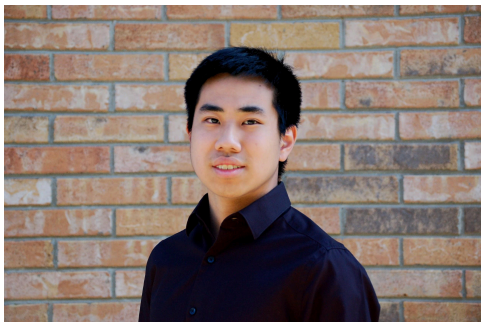
Ainsley de Boer is a soprano from Lethbridge Alberta, Canada. She attended the University of Lethbridge for voice before transferring to the University of Toronto where she now continues her studies in the studio of Nathalie Paulin. Currently she is in the opera undergraduate program at the University of Toronto for her Bachelor of Music in classical voice performance. She has been a part of a variety of different performances for musical theatre, jazz, choir and opera some of which include full productions of "Les Miserables", "Once on this Island", "Grease", "Fiddler

on the roof", "Il Capello di paglia di Firenze" and scenes from "Little Women", "Into the woods" and "The magic flute".

Aislinn Brown is currently enrolled in her Masters of Composition at the University of Toronto. Having majored in sacred vocal performance with a minor in piano performance, her works contain a variety of vocal ranges and accompaniments, suited for many differing audiences. She strives to create refreshing sacred music for all ranges, ages, and skill levels. She hopes that her music will create an impact on the hearts of her listeners.

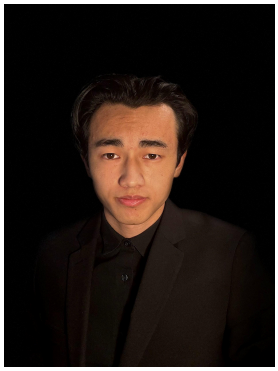
Soprano **Victoria Chan** is a 2nd-year undergrad from Hong Kong who is pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Toronto, under the tutelage of Lorna MacDonald. Victoria has competed in numerous Hong Kong School Music Festivals with the Treble Choir and as a soloist, is one of the Grand Prix choir winners in the 2018 Busan Choral Festival & Competition. She won multiple awards from the years 2017 to 2021 for individual singing in both Chinese and Foreign Languages, and most recently won 2nd place at the NATS Vocal Showcase for classical singing in 2023. Victoria is now in the UofT Chamber Choir and working as the Social Media Representative of the UofT SNATS team.

Arushi Das is a Toronto-based soprano in her second year of a Bachelor of Music in voice performance at the University of Toronto, studying under Frédérique Vézina. She started her studies in piano at 4, and voice lessons at 11. During the 2022-2023 season, Das was the soprano soloist in Mozart's Requiem with the York Chamber Ensemble. In a choral setting, she also sang with groups like the Ontario Youth Choir and Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. When she is not singing herself, she loves to teach music lessons! Arushi is honored to sing "Listen" alongside such a gifted pianist and composer.



Anthony Gunadi is a Canadian classical composer from Mississauga inspired by film and jazz music, with a background in electronic dance music production. Anthony Gunadi is the winner of the Orchestra Toronto 2023-24 Prize in Composition, and he enjoys collaborating with other musicians for UofT Student Composer Concerts. He is currently studying with Professor Norbert Palej as an undergraduate second-year composition major at the University of Toronto. His

journey has been enriched by diverse musical experiences including the Etobicoke Jazz Band, the UTSO, the UofT Steel Band, the UofT African Drumming and Dancing Ensemble, and the UofT Japanese Drumming Ensemble.



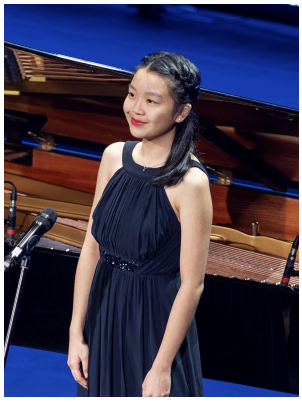
Bennett Luo is a Canadian pianist and composer. Currently, he is a composition student of Abigail Richardson-Schulte. Bennett strives to write music that is less predictable. However, his compositions are very much influenced by lyricism of the romantic period. In 2023, he had three works performed at concerts. His trio for clarinet, cello, and piano was performed at Walter Hall in January. His SATB choral piece was premiered at Holy Blossom Temple by Pax Christi Chorale in March. His duet for piano and viola was performed at the Arts and Letters club in May.

Angela Suet Kee Ng was a Grand Prize winner for the Canadian Music Competition in 2017, making her orchestral debut with the Orchestre de la Francophonie. Highlights also include performing at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall as part of the first prize winner ceremony for the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition, and recently with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Aside from teaching, competing and performing, Angela enjoys participating in music charity fundraisers, and performing in senior homes and events for the greater community as she strongly believes in giving the gifts of music back to the community. .

Maren Richardson is in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Music Performance in Classical Voice at the University of Toronto, under the tutelage of Lorna MacDonald. Born and raised in the Edmonton area, Maren has been an active member of the arts community. Her debut in a leading role was in the production of *Singin' in the Rain*, as Kathy Selden. This year she was recognized and awarded the *Winspear Fund Scholarship for Advanced Classical Singers* from the Edmonton Community Foundation. She has been a part of performances in Toronto with the Mandle Philharmonic Orchestra, Pax Christi Chorale, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra and more.

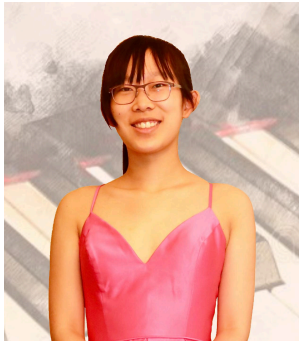
Soprano **May Sadan** has a passion for singing and performing. At age 15, May discovered her love for classical music through her high school choir, and shortly after, began studying classical voice and piano privately. May's most recent performances include the University of Toronto's Die schöne Müllerin Project, Voice Studies Welcome Showcase, and Songs of the Season Event. In addition, May played the part of 'Gretel' in Summer Opera Lyric Theatre's 2022 production of Hansel and Gretel. May graduated from Huron Heights Secondary school with Honours and an Arts Huron Music diploma in 2021. She currently studies with Frédérique Vézina at the University of Toronto, where she is in her second year of pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance degree.

From composing the soundtrack for an Amazon Prime series to receiving a commission from the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, **Danial Sheibani** - an Iranian-Canadian composer, conductor, pianist, and vocalist – has written for concert, film , TV, advertisements, theatre, and dance, working with UofT Opera, the Verona Quartet, the Standing Wave Ensemble, and many more. His works have been performed at Pacific Lutheran University, the Arts & Letters Club Toronto, The Annex (Vancouver), Harbourfront Centre, and Walter Hall. He is the recipient of the SOCAN 2023 Young Composers Award and NYO Emerging Composer Mentorship Program, the Arthur Plettner Scholarship, and the Lloyd Bradshaw Prize.



Jereney Shen is a soprano and chorister from Hong Kong. She began her studies in solo voice at the age of 15, and has received formal choral training since the age of 6. Shen is currently a sophomore, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice) at the University of Toronto, where she studies with Prof. Lorna MacDonald. Shen has been actively participating in various choral-related activities. She is the founder of The Kupenta Singers, a student-formed chamber choral ensemble in Toronto, and a member of The Mad Singers, the Grand-Prix winning choir of the 2023 Taipei International Choral Competition.

Jingren Sun 孙敬仁 is a Toronto based composer and pianist, born and raised in Xuzhou, China. His piece for solo piano, Toccata, has been performed by pianist Heting Xia at the Atlantic Music Festival in 2022. Jingren has also composed different kinds of works including chamber music, choral music and many more. He is currently in his second year of composition direct entry program at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto, and is studying composition with Prof. James Rolfe.



Studying with Professor Norbert Palej at the University of Toronto, **Elienna Wang** is passionate about promoting social justice and cultural diversity through composing. Her cosmopolitan style elements of Chinese folk music, Classical music, and Japanese anime music. Elienna has more than 20 compositions published on her YouTube channel and her works are performed at university and community concerts, including the New Music Festival and Student Composers Concerts at the University of Toronto, the Women's Art Association of Canada, and retirement homes in the GTA. Her experience as a choral accompanist, assistant conductor, pianist, and pop singer has inspired her to focus on vocal music this year.

Taiwanese-born Canadian **Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu** is an award-winning composer, violinist, and multimedia artist who is constantly on the search for musical language that bridges his multicultural identity. Patrick's music ranges from his own style of neo-romanticism to avant-garde soundscapes; fusing theatrical elements and improvisational techniques. Patrick is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre and an affiliate member of the Canadian League of Composers. His music is represented by SOCAN and ASCAP. Patrick is currently pursuing his Doctoral of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto under the guidance of Dr. Norbert Palej.
https://www.patrickwumusic.com/